



HAIDA NATION

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July 30, 2020

UNDER HAIDA AUTHORITY AND BC MINISTERIAL ORDER, NON-RESIDENT AND ALL NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL IS NOT PERMITTED

This letter is to notify businesses and service providers, again, of the Haida Gwaii State of Emergency, which does not permit non-resident travel. As you may be aware, Haida Gwaii is now in the midst of an outbreak of COVID-19 and we are in an urgent response phase.

One of the outcomes of this health crisis is a greater partnership with the province. Today, the province issued a ministerial order that prevents all non-resident and non-essential travel to Haida Gwaii. This better aligns with Haida Gwaii's State of Emergency and the Haida Nation's travel restrictions.

All levels of government will continue to work together in responding to the outbreak, which includes enforcement of the non-resident travel restrictions. We trust that with this notice, you will make the necessary plans to adhere to both Haida and provincial jurisdictions on this matter of non-resident travel to Haida Gwaii.

Enclosed you will find:

- [NEW BC ORDER BETTER ALIGNS WITH HAIDA LAW AND HAIDA GWAII'S COVID-19 RESPONSE](#). Council of the Haida Nation Press Release (July 30, 2020)
- [Province restricts travel to Haida Gwaii to protect communities](#). BC Gov News (July 30, 2020)
- Ministerial Order M257-2020

Haawa,

Gaagwiis *Jason Alsop*
President of the Haida Nation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2020

NEW BC ORDER BETTER ALIGNS WITH HAIDA LAW AND HAIDA GWAII'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Background

Haida Gwaii has taken a unique approach to the COVID-19 response and recovery plan for our isolated Islands' communities. Today, the Haida Nation is pleased that BC has aligned with our efforts to protect Haida citizens and citizens of Haida Gwaii by issuing an order to restrict non-essential travel to the Islands. BC's order better supports Haida Gwaii's COVID-19 response.

The Council of the Haida Nation has taken a primary and preventative response to COVID-19 with measures above and beyond BC's Restart Plan. With limited health care resources, historical traumas and valued Elders, our communities deserve the best protections and safeguards. Restricting movement to Haida Gwaii has been a key precautionary measure to date and BC's travel restriction order is a necessary and welcomed measure to safeguard Island communities during the current outbreak of COVID-19.

Quotes

"This global health pandemic is a test of reconciliation with the province. It's critical that we come together at this time of crisis. BC's order is an important step towards a renewed partnership in emergency management. The province's work to enact an order that aligns with the Haida Nation's State of Emergency is a respectful act and recognition of Haida jurisdiction and our responsibility as governments to work together to protect all communities and residents of Haida Gwaii from the threat of COVID-19."

-- Gaagwiis *Jason Alsop*, President of the Haida Nation

"I'm grateful to BC for this provincial order, it will help our local efforts in controlling the outbreak of COVID-19. The order will be a reset button for our local governments on Haida Gwaii to commit to working together to free us all from this virus as soon as possible."

-- William "Billy" Yovanovich, Chief Councillor of the Skidegate Band Council

"Leaders of Haida Gwaii have done all that we can to keep COVID-19 from coming to our communities. Our EOC and health teams have been preparing for this day. I'm glad to hear BC has aligned with Haida Gwaii's measures and we are all working together on this pandemic response. Keeping our Elders and communities safe is our top priority during these difficult times.

-- Donald "Duffy" Edgars, Chief Councillor of the Old Massett Village Council

Resources and related documents

- [Haida Gwaii State of Emergency](#)
- [Constitution of the Haida Nation](#)

Quick facts

- A community outbreak was declared on Haida Gwaii on July 24, 2020
- As of July 29, 2020, there have been 20 confirmed COVID-19 cases on Haida Gwaii
- Under the authority of the Constitution of the Haida Nation, the Haida Nation declared a state of emergency on March 23, 2020
- Since March 23, Haida Gwaii SOE measures have prevented non-resident travel to the Islands, which applies to all non-essential work
- Haida Gwaii leadership have been coordinating the COVID-19 response and are committed to working together on an Islands-wide recovery plan
- The provincial order is in effect for the duration of the outbreak declared by the Medical Health Officer, Northern Health
- The community outbreak is not likely to be declared over by the Medical Health Officer until there have been no new COVID-19 positive cases confirmed for 28 consecutive days on Haida Gwaii
- The Haida Gwaii State of Emergency and measures are in effect until further notice

Media inquiries

Council of the Haida Nation

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2020PSSG0041-001429

July 30, 2020

Emergency Management BC

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Province restricts travel to Haida Gwaii to protect communities

VICTORIA – In response to a community outbreak on Haida Gwaii, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth is using extraordinary powers under the current state of provincial emergency to restrict non-resident travel to the archipelago, maintain essential goods and services for residents, and support the Haida Nation and the Province's continued COVID-19 pandemic response.

“The Province, Northern Health and the First Nations Health Authority are working closely with the Haida Nation and local governments on Haida Gwaii to respond to this COVID-19 outbreak,” Farnworth said. “Our foremost concern is the health and safety of all residents of Haida Gwaii, and we’re working together to limit further spread of COVID-19.”

The decision to restrict non-resident travel to Haida Gwaii has been made in a government-to-government collaboration with Council of the Haida Nation, Skidegate Band Council, Old Massett Village Council and local governments, in consultation with the provincial health officer. The Province will be deploying staff to support communities on the mainland and on Haida Gwaii to implement the travel restriction. There are currently 20 cases associated with the outbreak on Haida Gwaii. According to Northern Health, all cases are believed to be related to residents who have travelled off-island, or who had contact with a resident who has travelled off-island.

Testing for the islands has been prioritized and results are being received within 36 hours. Community contact tracing is ongoing and supports are in place on the islands for those who have tested positive, including special accommodations for self-isolation if needed.

“COVID-19 has been challenging for everyone in our province. I am thankful the leadership of communities across Haida Gwaii has worked together to take these actions collaboratively,” said Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer. “This order will help the Province ensure resources are in place to protect public health and safety as Haida Gwaii works to contain this outbreak. These measures are part of a swift, effective and co-ordinated public health response that includes prioritized testing, thorough contact tracing, and prioritized travel to and from the community.”

Travel to Haida Gwaii will continue to be permitted subject to the approval of the collective Haida Gwaii communities for the delivery of essential goods and supplies, medical appointments, urgent or emergency family matters, and for the provision of essential services as defined by the unified command structure comprised of the Council of the Haida Nation, village councils and local governments.

On March 18, 2020, Farnworth declared a provincial state of emergency, the day after the

provincial health officer declared a public health emergency. The provincial state of emergency and the subsequent extensions are based on recommendations from B.C.'s health and emergency management officials.

Learn More:

Learn more about B.C.'s economic recovery planning: <http://gov.bc.ca/recoveryideas>

For information on BC's Restart Plan, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/RestartBC

For information on non-medical issues like travel recommendations and how to manage social isolation, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/COVID-19

For information on federal and provincial government supports available to individuals, families, businesses and organizations, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/covidgovernmentbenefits

For recommendations on protecting yourself and your community, including for employers, businesses and schools, visit: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))

For more information and latest medical updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC

Or visit its website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

Contacts:

For non-medical information relating to COVID-19:

Visit: www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19

Email: servicebc@gov.bc.ca

Or call: 1 888 COVID-19

Jordan Turner

Media Relations

Emergency Management BC

250-952-5062

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND
SOLICITOR GENERAL

Emergency Program Act

Ministerial Order No. M257

WHEREAS a declaration of a state of emergency throughout the whole of the Province of British Columbia was declared on March 18, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the Haida Nation issued a local state of emergency for Haida Gwaii under its own authority on March 23, 2020;

AND WHEREAS the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic to the health, safety and welfare of people has resulted in guidelines, recommendations and requirements to take steps and implement measures to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, including provincial health officer orders, guidelines issued by the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control and WorkSafeBC requirements;

AND WHEREAS there is a Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol between the Haida Nation and British Columbia, dated for reference December 11, 2009;

AND WHEREAS an outbreak of COVID-19 has occurred on Haida Gwaii that is being cooperatively managed by communities with a common objective of limiting further transmission of COVID-19, including through a common process for authorizing essential travel;

AND WHEREAS health resources on Haida Gwaii are limited and access to and from Haida Gwaii is limited, creating challenges for responding to a COVID-19 outbreak;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia agree to work together as partners in emergency management throughout Haida Gwaii in consultation with the North Coast Regional District, the Village of Queen Charlotte, the Village of Port Clements and the Village of Masset;

AND WHEREAS section 10 (1) of the *Emergency Program Act* provides that I may do all acts and implement all procedures that I consider necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of any emergency or disaster;

I, Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, order that the attached Haida Gwaii (COVID-19) Order is made.

July 30, 2020

Date



Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: *Emergency Program Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 111, s. 10

Other: OIC 436/2020

HAIDA GWAII (COVID-19) ORDER

Definitions

1 In this order:

“essential goods and supplies” means any goods and supplies that are necessary for the health, safety and welfare of people, including, without limitation, the following:

- (a) food, water and other beverages;
- (b) fuel and gasoline;
- (c) health care goods, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies;
- (d) personal hygiene, sanitation and cleaning goods;

“essential purpose” means the following:

- (a) delivery of essential goods and supplies to residents;
- (b) operation of an essential service for, or provision of an essential service to, residents or for the benefit of residents;
- (c) attendance at a medical appointment;

“essential service” means an essential service as described in the document titled “Haida Nation Essential Services”, available on the Council of the Haida Nation website at <http://www.haidanation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FINAL-essential-services-chart-2020-05-15.pdf>, as that document reads on the date this order is made;

“Haida Gwaii” means the islands renamed in section 2 of the *Haida Gwaii Reconciliation Act*;

“resident” means a person who is ordinarily resident on Haida Gwaii.

Application

- 2** This order applies during the period that starts on the date this order is made and ends on the date on which the last extension of the declaration of a state of emergency made March 18, 2020 under section 9 (1) of the *Emergency Program Act* expires or is cancelled.

Prohibition on travel to Haida Gwaii

- 3** Travel to Haida Gwaii is prohibited except
- (a) travel by residents, or
 - (b) travel for an essential purpose.

Requirement for documentation

- 4**
- (1) A person who travels to Haida Gwaii must have documentation to establish that the person is a resident or is travelling for an essential purpose.
 - (2) The documentation referred to in subsection (1), and the production of documentation, must comply with the common approach developed under section 5 (a), or, if applicable, the common approach adjusted under section 5 (b).

Implementation of emergency measure

- 5** The board of the North Coast Regional District and the councils of the Village of Masset, the Village of Port Clements and the Village of Queen Charlotte are required to work with the Council of the Haida Nation, the Skidegate Band Council, the Old Massett Village Council and the Province to

- (a) develop a common approach to communications, documentation, information sharing, reporting, permitting and resourcing related to travel to Haida Gwaii for essential purposes,
- (b) monitor the prohibition on travel to Haida Gwaii and adjust the common approach described in paragraph (a) as required, and
- (c) otherwise implement the emergency measure described in section 3.